

you can absolutely have a racial justice provision that will do some good. I'm not—I don't want to get into—this is a complicated piece of legislation, with two competing bills. But we will have positions on all those issues, so—I don't think it's accurate to say that we've not taken a position.

**Q.** Mr. President, why would the assault weapons ban work better separately than part of the overall crime bill?

**The President.** The administration liked it as part of the overall crime bill. We liked what the Senate did.

**Q.** Well, why—now that it's no longer part of the crime bill?

**The President.** Because we'll make it part of—[inaudible]—process separately in the House, then the conferees will put it into the crime bill.

**Q.** Realistically, politically, sir, what are the prospects?

**The President.** I don't know yet. We're working it. We couldn't—because the House was unwilling to consider it together, we had to work the crime bill and get it through before we could work the assault weapons bill, because they had made a decision to vote them separately. So I can't answer your question now because we're just now getting pounced in trying to get our teeth into the effort.

**Q.** So you don't know yet whether the tide is turning on that.

**The President.** I think we're in a lot better shape than we were a week ago. But I don't know yet that it'll pass. I'm working on it. I think—it certainly should pass, and we're in better shape than we were a week ago. We'll just keep working. I feel pretty hopeful about it. If these people are heard from, it will pass.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Randy Bean, whose fellow officer was killed during a routine traffic stop; Steven Sposato, whose wife was killed by a gunman in a San Francisco law office; James Brady, former White House Press Secretary who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan; former political prisoner Wang Jontao; and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. A tape was not available for verification of the exchange portion of this item.

## **Proclamation 6678—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 1994**

*April 25, 1994*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Every day, our Nation's peace is shattered by crime. Violent crime and the fear it provokes are crippling our society, limiting our personal freedom, and fraying the ties that bind us. No corner of America, it often seems, is safe from increasing levels of criminal violence. And more and more, the victims of these crimes are random targets of assaults stemming from a serious breakdown of values in our families and our communities.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a time when our Nation pauses to seriously reflect on these innocent victims of crime and on those who are working all across this country in their behalf. Thousands of people—many of them volunteers who have been victims themselves—are tirelessly striving at the Federal, State, and local levels to provide emotional support, guidance, and financial assistance to help crime victims recover from their trauma and to ensure that they are treated equitably and sensitively as their cases progress through the criminal justice system.

My Administration is working to stop the violence today to ensure fewer victims tomorrow. The pending crime bill is tough and smart and fair, with victims' concerns as its centerpiece. It will strengthen programs that combat violence against women, it will impose a life sentence—without possibility of parole—on repeat, violent offenders, and it will amend the Victims of Crime Act to expand Federal resources available for crime victims' services, and it will promote the development of State registries for child abusers. We are encouraging citizens to assume personal responsibility for improving their neighborhoods and to get involved in finding solutions to the violence in their communities.

Those who give of themselves to assist victims are helping immeasurably in this effort. They are there for their neighbors. They are there to provide comfort when someone has

lost a child to random gunfire, when the sanctity of someone's home has been invaded by an intruder, when someone has been robbed, brutalized, or beaten. National Crime Victims' Rights Week affords us the opportunity to express our appreciation to these "good neighbors" and to renew our commitment to meeting the needs and ensuring the rights of crime victims.

I encourage communities across the Nation to facilitate the restorative process. Offenders must take responsibility and be held accountable for what they have done. We must encourage victims to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and help them to rebuild their lives and their communities through volunteer efforts and community service projects. And community institutions must afford the same rights to the victim as those given to the accused and to the offender. This includes initiatives such as community policing, community prosecutors, and community action advocates. Members of AmeriCorps promise a source of untapped potential for even more victim service agencies in our cities and towns. In fact, thousands will be making their presence felt this summer in our national service Summer of Safety programs. The problem of violence is a problem for all Americans. It is not a partisan issue. Strong pro-victim measures must be enacted in order to give our children a brighter future.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of April 24 through April 30, 1994, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge all Americans to join in remembering the innocent victims of crime and in honoring those who labor selflessly in behalf of these victims and their families. We must recommit ourselves to working with our neighbors to stop the violence and to ensure safer streets, schools, and playgrounds for our Nation's children and for all of our citizens.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the

United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:27 p.m., April 26, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 29.

### **Executive Order 12911—Seal for the Office of National Drug Control Policy**

*April 25, 1994*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1.** There is approved for the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the Executive Office of the President an official seal described as follows:

On a blue disc the Arms of the United States proper above a curved gold scroll inscribed "OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY" in blue letters, all within a white border edged in gold and inscribed "EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES" in blue letters.

This design is appropriate for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The dark blue in this seal is suggested by the Seal of the President and denotes the direct organizational link of the Office of National Drug Control Policy with the Presidential office. The Arms of the United States refer to the entire Nation and represent the involvement in drug control policies that are necessary to assist the President in his role as Chief Executive of the United States.

**Sec. 2.** The seal shall be of the design that is attached hereto and made a part of this order.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
April 25, 1994.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:17 a.m., April 26, 1994]